

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 of the specification, which was previously added in Applicants' Amendment filed on April 15, 2003, with the following replacement paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation ~~entitled to the benefit of PCT-International~~ Application No. PCT/FR99/01973, filed August 11, 1999[[:]], which claims priority to ~~and~~ French Patent Application No. FR98/10338, filed August 12, 1998.